

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 9 as follows:

Firstly, the user database 151 records user information and the amount of money of the user ~~user-cash in respect of each user~~. In this embodiment, as shown, user name and user-cash which means the amount of money of the user are recorded in respect of each user ID. The user database 151 may record password the user enters for the authentication.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 14 as follows:

The user-cash may be recorded, for instance, by the payment of ~~real~~-cash, by the mileage benefit or by the cyber-money through intermediation of other affiliated site.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 17 as follows:

The item database 153 records quantity of an item ~~item-quantity~~, market price and present price-inspection cash which is a reading fee which should be paid to read the present price of the item ~~necessary for inspecting present price of the item as described later~~. In this embodiment, as shown, quantity, market price and price-inspection cash are recorded in respect of each item ID. If discount is made according to the remaining ~~remained~~-quantity along the continuous production of new auctions for the same item, the item database 153 may record existence or non-existence of the discount database which records discount information.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 7 as follows:

The auction database 155 records item, open and close(end) of an auction and winning price in respect of each established auction. In this embodiment, as shown, item ID, the winning price and auction flag indicating whether ~~that~~-the auction progresses or ends are recorded in respect of the each auction ID. The flag record is ON when the corresponding auction is open and OFF when the corresponding auction is closed. When the auction is closed, the item-winner and the winning price are recorded.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 15 as follows:

When the user requests the present price inspection, that is the request for reading the present price, the present price is fallen down as the auction process progresses. The history database 161 records the decreased(fallen) price in respect of the user who inspected the present price. In this embodiment, as shown, the auction ID, the user ID and the decreased present price are recorded in respect of each history ID.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 3 as follows:

The discount database 163 records discounted price according to the remaining ~~remained~~ quantity. In this embodiment, as shown, the item ID and the discounted price according to the remaining ~~remained~~-quantity are recorded in respect of each discount ID. Alternatively, discount rate may be recorded according to the remaining ~~remained~~-quantity, or discounted price or discount rate may be recorded according to accumulated sold quantity.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 10 as follows:

Further, the server computer 100 may have the sponsor database 165 if there is a sponsor for the present-price inspection cash (that is the reading fee) such as advertiser. In this case, ~~the sponsor provides the price inspection cash and~~ the price inspection cash is withdrawn(balanced) from the money of the sponsor. Accordingly, the sponsor database 165 records the item ID and the present amount of money of the sponsor ~~present cash of the sponsor~~ in respect of each sponsor ID.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 9 as follows:

If there is no established auction in connection with the item, new auction is established(opened). Otherwise, the user is took part in the readily established auction. At this stage, it may be necessary to decide whether there is any remaining ~~are remained~~-quantity in connection with the item before new auction is created.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 14 as follows:

Therefore, the process part 130 decides whether there is the already established auction in connection with the item (Step S304) and opens the new auction (Step S306) after checking the remaining ~~remained~~-quantity of the item (Step S305) if it fails to find the established auction.

When opening the new auction (Step S306), the process part 130 subtracts item quantity to be auctioned from the item database 153 and records the result. If the process part 130 decides that there is ~~are no remaining remained~~-item quantity, end of the auction for the item is displayed and the auction is not opened-closed. (Step S307)

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 20, line 11 as follows:

Then, the process part 130 displays initial item price and the reading fee which should be paid to read the present price of the item ~~present price inspection cash necessary to inspect the present price of the item~~ in connection with the present auction on the client computers 301, 302, 303, ...N. The initial item price may be the market price on the item database 153. (Step S308) If the discount is made according to the remaining ~~remained~~-quantity of the item(or the accumulated sold quantity of the item), the discounted price is displayed as the initial price as described later.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 21, line 1 as follows:

If the user wants to read or inspect the present price and requests it (Step S309), ~~the corresponding present price inspection cash is withdrawn from cash provider and~~ the item price is fallen down by the amount of the present price inspection cash, that is the amount of the reading fee. (Step S310) And the decreased price is displayed on the client computer of the user. (Step S311)

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 21, line 7 as follows:

At this time, the present price inspection cash (the reading fee)is withdrawn from the money of a reading fee provider who pays the reading fee ~~cash provider~~. The reading fee ~~cash~~ provider may be the user who requested the reading of the present price ~~inspection~~ of the item or the sponsor such as advertiser in connection with the item. If there is no sponsor, the present price inspection cash that is the reading fee is withdrawn from the money of the user ~~the user database 151~~ and the result is recorded on the filed of the user cash in the user database 151. At this time, if the user cash that is the amount of money of the user is smaller than the present price inspection cash that is the reading fee, it is possible to let the users fill up the user cash by the payment of the ~~real cash or other alternative such as~~, mileage or cyber money.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 22, line 12 as follows:

In this embodiment, the decision whether the bid request is the first is made by searching the auction flag in connection with the auction ID on the auction database 155. That is, when the auction flag is ON and there is the first bid request, the auction flag changes to OFF and the bid requester becomes the winner and recorded as the winner. Accordingly, if the auction flag is OFF when there is the bid request, it fails to be the first bid and the bid is unsuccessful. ~~The corresponding auction is closed by changing the auction flag into OFF.~~

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 23, line 8 as follows:

For instance, the process part 130 decides the bid requester after the first bid requester as the loser and notifies it (Step S315). Then, the process part 130 decides whether there is the open auction for the same item. (step S304) If there is not a new choice of the same auction item (Step S303) and there are the remaining ~~remained~~-quantity of the item, the new auction is open. (Step S306) The losers after the first loser are automatically took part in the auction which is already established by the first loser.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 24, line 9 as follows:

Firstly, if there is the request of the present price inspection that is the request for reading the present price (Step S309 in Fig. 3), the process part 130 refers to the sponsor database 165 and decides whether there is the sponsor for the corresponding item. (Step S401) If there is the sponsor, it decides whether the sponsor cash that is the money of the sponsor is greater ~~larger~~ than the reading fee ~~the present price inspection price~~ (Step S402) and withdraws from the sponsor the present price inspection cash (the reading fee) and records the remaining amount of the money ~~the result~~. (Step S403)

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 25, line 1 as follows:

Firstly, the process part 130 investigates the remaining ~~remained~~-quantity of the item (Step S305 in Fig. 3) and decides whether there is discounted price according to the remained quantity of the item by referring to the discount database 163. (Step S501)

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 27, line 15 as follows:

It is possible for the present price to be fallen down below 0 (zero) as the present price is continuously decreased by the continuous present price inspection. In this case, the bidder who requests the present price inspection (present-price reading) to make the present price below 0 is decided as the winner and the auction is closed and others becomes the loser. With reference to Fig. 3, if the present price is fallen down at step S310, the process part 130 decides whether the decreased price is below 0 and, if that is true, process goes to step 314 to decide the user as the winner and the corresponding auction is closed and other users of the losers are took part in the new auction.